

As I view the profiles and tweets on Facebook and Twitter, I often see people lamenting about their lives, complaining about the things in life that irked them. I admit to have been one of those people complaining about my life before. I used to think about how other people are better off than I am and how unfair everything was. However, all this is now a thing of the past. I have come to understand my circumstances, and how it came to be, because through it all, I finally figured out. Just as what James Allen once said, "A man sooner or later discovers that he is the master-gardener of his soul, the director of his life", I believe, that life is driven by one force only, and that is we.

I remember an anecdote of my mother that she shared with me. She told me that as a child, she was given away by her parents to an uncle as he did not have any children. When he passed away, she was sent back to her biological parents' house and although her father readily accepted her back, her mother, however, considered her to be an outsider and treated her unfairly. Unable to withstand the inequality, my mother moved out to live by herself after finishing her secondary education and not long after, learnt to stand on her own two feet to support herself.

I was shocked by how much my mother had gone through. Never once had I thought that my mother was someone who had lived through so much- but why is it that she was able to become such a successful person right now despite all obstacles she faced? It then dawned upon me that all this happened because of

one thing: herself. It was because of the choices she had made then which landed her in this present. If my mother had chosen to wallow in self-pity instead of never giving up and making on her own, she would never have what she had now. Basing it on my own experiences, if I had chosen to slack off during my PSLE period, I would not have landed in such an elite school. If I had chosen to get annoyed and complain about the fact that my family was sick during my birthday and I did not get to celebrate it, I would have felt angry towards my family which would have made my day miserable. They would then never have decided to arrange another day to celebrate it seeing how understanding I was of the situation then.

I believe that everyone has options. Two beggars who make different choices in life will not have the same sufferings. Two students who make different choices in life will not reach the same standard in education. Our lives are really defined solely by the choices we, ourselves make. And because we are the decision-makers, the creator of our lives, life is what we make it to be.